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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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May 26, 2010

The Honorable Pam Byrnes
State House of Representatives 52nd District
S0986 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representative Byrnes:

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) commends the sponsors for introducing the Complete Street bills for consideration. The WATS Policy Committee voted to join the Complete Streets Coalition at their April 21, 2010 meeting. The Agency supports all modes of transportation based on the context of the area and endorses the State Legislature passage of these bills with a few concerns that they would like addressed as provided below.

In the substitute for House Bill 6151, WATS requests that the exemption identified in Section 10P, section five (page 4 lines 5 to 8) not be a lifetime exemption, and that each new project require a recertification of the exemption. WATS also recommends that even in the rural area, that four to five foot shoulders be required to accommodate, bikers, walkers and farm equipment.

Also in the substitute for House Bill 6151 section eight (page 5 lines 23 to 27 and page 6 lines 1 to 26), WATS requests that the Legislators consider adding a representative from the Michigan Transportation Planning Association to the Complete Streets Advisory Council, as they are primarily responsible for transportation planning in the urban areas. This would provide a 15 member council and five each could be appointed for one year, two year and three year terms.

In the substitute for House Bill 6152 section 33 (b) (lines 24 to 27) WATS requests that the "bicycle paths" change to "bicycle facilities" and "pedestrian ways" change to "pedestrian facilities" to provide for mid-block crossings or hawk signals.

Sincerely,

Terri Blackmore
Executive Director

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

• CITY OF ANN ARBOR • ANN ARBOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY • ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP • CITY OF CHELSEA • VILLAGE OF DEXTER •
• DEXTER TOWNSHIP • EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY • MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP • PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP •
• CITY OF SALINE • SCIO TOWNSHIP • SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS • SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN •
• WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS • WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION • CITY OF YPSILANTI • YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP •
• EX OFFICIO: FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION • SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS •

AN INTERMUNICIPALITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER ACT 200 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN (1957)
REPRESENTING WASHTENAW COUNTY